

evidence confirming the statement that Arius was recalled before Eusebius and Theognis—in itself a most improbable step. Constantine had issued an edict that any one concealing a copy of the writings of Arius and not instantly handing it over to the authorities to be burnt, should be put to death, and it is much more probable that Arius was recalled after, rather than before, Eusebius of Nicomedia. The "History" of Socrates contains many letters of doubtful authenticity and some which are, beyond dispute, forgeries. Among the latter we may certainly include the portentously long document in which Constantine is represented as making a grossly personal attack on the banished Arius. We will content ourselves with quoting the most vituperative passage:

"Look ! Look all of you ! See what wretched cries he utters, writhing in pain from the bite of the serpent's tooth ! See how his veins and flesh are poison-tainted and what agonised convulsions they excite ! See how his body is wasted away with disease and squalor, with dirt and lamentation, with pallor and horror ! See how he is withered up with a thousand evils ! See how horrible to look upon is his filthy tangled head of hair ; how he is half dead from top to toe ; how languid is the aspect of his haggard, bloodless face ; how madness, fury, and vanity, swooping down upon him together, have reduced him to what he is—a savage and wild beast! He does not even recognise the horrible situation he is in. * I am beside myself with joy ' ; he says, * I dance and leap with glee ; I fly ; I am a happy boy again/ "